

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2008

The Honorable Condoleezza Rice
Secretary Of State
U.S. Department Of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rice:

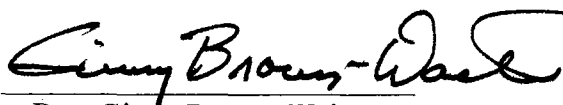
We want to express our objections to the news that the State Department has decided to renew a contract with Blackwater USA for diplomatic security. Our concerns over the renewal of this contract stem from Blackwater USA's pattern of conduct since being awarded contracts in Iraq.

Blackwater USA has clearly exhibited disrespect and disregard for its employees, their families and Iraqi civilians. As you know, because of several well-publicized cases of actions taken against Iraqi civilians by Blackwater USA, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has opposed the renewal of any State Department contract with Blackwater USA.

We fear that the State Department's renewal of the diplomatic security contract with Blackwater USA is one made out of convenience and not based on the company's track record or the quality of their work. We urge you to reconsider the renewal of this contract and ask that the State Department avoid extending or entering into any new agreements with Blackwater USA.

We would also like to request a meeting with you so that we can discuss our concerns and listen to your explanation as to why the State Department continues to use the services of Blackwater USA. We look forward to meeting with you in the near future.

Sincerely,


Rep. Ginny Brown-Waite


Rep. Jan Schakowsky